



Marianas Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

2003 Annual Report



Front row (L-R): Antonette Tornito, Jocelyn Bamba, Felix Quan. Back row (L-R): Joe Rosario, Frank Cruz, John Borja, Ike Cabrera, Frank Calvo, Sam Palacios, Lawrence Duponcheel, James Mendiola, Cris Ogo.

"Cooperative Leadership for a Marianas Paradise"



Who We Are

The Marianas Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. (RC&D) is an incorporated 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Marianas RC&D Area, which includes the Territory of Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, was authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1992. Volunteers from four island committees make up the Council membership. Our volunteers share a common desire to protect natural resources, preserve island culture, and improve the economic well-being for all residents of the Mariana Islands.

The Marianas RC&D Council helps people and communities care for and preserve their natural resources. The Marianas RC&D effectively develops partnerships with government, non-government and private organizations. These alliances provide the necessary tools and resources that allow the Marianas RC&D to accomplish their goals and objectives. We help people work together and carry out their projects, making the Mariana Islands a better place to live.

Mission & Vision

OUR MISSION

To promote the conservation education, orderly development and wise utilization of natural resources thereby improving economic opportunities, community health, public awareness and quality of life of the people of the Mariana Islands.

OUR VISION

The vision of the Marianas RC&D Council is “*Cooperative Leadership for a Marianas Paradise.*”

Message from the President

Hafa Adai!

On behalf of the Marianas Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) and the Executive Board, I take great pride in presenting our 2003 Annual Report. The Annual Report provides an overview of the activities we conducted throughout the year.



I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to my fellow Board members and the general membership who have volunteered their time and shared their expertise to enhance the quality of life for all the people in the Mariana Islands region. I want to encourage our members to recruit more concerned citizens such as themselves to volunteer their time and skills and make a difference for our islands. There is no greater reward than knowing you have made a difference in your community.

I look forward to working closely with all the Council members as we continue to serve the people of the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. si Yu'us ma'ase'.

Joe Rosario, President
Marianas Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

Message from the RC&D Coordinator

My work with the Council, the Executive Board and the four Island Committees has been a very rewarding experience for me. I continue to be impressed with the strong commitment all the members have to improving the quality of life on our islands. The organizational structure of the Council is very unique, it is the Island Committees who identify community concerns and issues, and help initiate projects to address them. The Island Committee members are the grass roots link between the Council and our island communities.



Dankulu na si Yu'us ma'se' to all our volunteers who made 2003 a great success.

Jocelyn Bamba
Marianas RC&D Coordinator

Saipan & Northern Islands Committee

Kagman Education Island

The proposed project will provide safe viewing of identified endangered and/or threatened bird species through construction of a boardwalk and viewing platform. In addition, the project will extend the existing recreational trail system and tie it into the boardwalk and viewing platform. An outdoor classroom will be provided, which will increase opportunities for safe interaction with Saipan's wetland ecosystem. There will be numerous occasions to participate in passive recreational activities on the project site. Indirectly, the project will help protect the high quality reef areas by educating the public on the importance of wetlands in reducing sediment and pollutants to the area.



Saipan Island Committee members brainstorm their annual plan of work at Education Island.

Saipan Beach Pathway Restroom Facility

This proposed project will demonstrate how an alternative energy source can be used for lighting and heating, thereby encouraging the use of solar energy power systems. In addition, methods will be demonstrated for reducing non-point source pollution from entering the Saipan lagoon through “smart” planning and location of the alternative solar energy restroom facilities and by the use of water catchment structures.



L-R: Jocelyn Bamba, Marianas RC&D Coordinator and Thelma Inos, Territorial Energy Office Director, Division of Energy, CNMI.

Tinian Island Committee

Tinian Aiport Road Beautification

Agriculture students from the Tinian High School provided valuable assistance in beautifying the island. The students received excellent hands on education from local leaders in the environmental field by teaming up with the Northern Marianas College – Cooperative Research, Extension, & Education Service (CREES), Tinian and Aguigan Soil & Water Conservation District, Department of Lands & Natural Resources – Forestry Division (DLNR), Tinian Municipal Council, Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Marianas RC&D Tinian Island Committee. The

Students made a good start by giving some trees along Airport Road some loving care through the installation of planting beds and the addition of wood chip mulch. In subsequent outings, similar treatment will be given to all trees planted along Airport Road.



Guam Island Committee

The Marianas Resource Conservation and Development Council presented their 5-Year Area Plan to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, Governor of Guam at a brief ceremony held in the Governor's Chambers on March 21, 2003. The Area Plan identifies natural resource and community development issues and provides a record of vision and direction to guide members as they implement projects that support community development and natural resource conservation. The Council serves communities of the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



Felix Quan (L) and Jocelyn Bamba (R) present a copy of the Area Plan to The Honorable Felix P. Camacho, Governor of Guam (Center).

On June 4, 2003 Frank Cruz and John Borja, Guam members of the Marianas Resource Conservation & Development Council, met with Senators Rory J. Respicio, Tina Muna-Barnes, and Joanne S. Brown to discuss existing and planned projects. Jocelyn Bamba, Resource Conservation & Development Coordinator provided the Senators with the Marianas RC&D Council's brochure, and gave an update on their activities on Guam and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. To further their partnership with the Senators, the Council provided copies of their 5-Year Area Plan.



L-R: Tyrone Taitano, Frank Cruz, Senator Joanne Brown, Senator Tina-Muña Barnes, Jocelyn Bamba, Senator Rory Respicio, John Borja and Mary Louise Wheeler.

Marianas RC&D Annual Meeting

Recycling opportunities, solar-powered rest rooms, Tinian Marine Education Center, sinking ships to improve fish habitat and promoting value-added agriculture products were all topics of the meeting held September 10 -12, 2003 at the Aqua Resort Club, Saipan.



Front row (L-R): Lawrence Duponcheel, Tinian Island Committee; Sabra Kauka, President, Garden Island RC&D, Kauai; Jocelyn Bamba, Marianas RC&D Coordinator; Joe Rosario, President, Marianas RC&D. Back row (L-R): Ivan Groom, Saipan and Northern Islands Committee; Sam Palacios, Tinian Island Committee; Frank Cruz, Vice President, Marianas RC&D; Ignacio Cabrera, Saipan Island Committee; Dina Tenorio, Division of Environmental Quality; James Mendiola, Tinian Island Committee.

The Council was honored to have Ms. Sabra Kauka as special guest speaker. Ms. Kauka is the President of the Garden Island RC&D Council of Kauai, Hawaii. The USDA-NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Program provided funds to bring Ms. Kauka to our lovely islands. Along with Ms. Kauka, Mr. Kai'opua Fyfe volunteered to come and give a presentation on Construction Management and the Planning Process. Both Sabra and Kai'opua have many years of community involvement under their belts. They shared their experiences and knowledge about grass roots planning and implementation of projects that address local needs and concerns.

Members received training, conducted their business meeting, and developed administrative policies. Most important was the opportunity to exchange ideas, renew old friendships, and forge new ones.



L-R: Dina Tenorio & Jocelyn Bamba.



L-R: Mary Frear, Earth Team Volunteer & Ike Cabrera.

The Council participated in their first ever television show. John Gonzales, host of the Marianas Cable Vision “I Tanota” live talk show, gave the Council a full hour to discuss activities in the Mariana Islands. The Council provided a brief overview of the history of the Council, RC&D Program, and discussed past and proposed projects. The Council took this opportunity to provide an on-air invitation to the public to attend the RC&D Annual meeting.



Front (L-R): Lawrence Duponcheel, Sabra Kauka, Jocelyn Bamba, Joe Rosario.
Back (L-R): John Gonzales, Frank Cruz, Ike Cabrera, James Mendiola, Kai'opua Fye

Recycling opportunities and the importance of managing the ever-growing trash problem in the Mariana Islands provided the theme for our technical tour. The Council visited the newly opened Transfer Station and Marpi Landfill on Saipan. Residents and businesses may now bring in certain recyclable materials to the Transfer Station.



L-R: Ivan Groom and Ike Cabrera in front of a compactor, which will convert recycled materials into bales.



Lawrence Duponcheel looks at a hazardous material storage container.



Bales of recycled material ready for shipment off-island.

The Transfer Station is operated by the Department of Public Works (DPW) Solid Waste Division, which is also in charge of maintaining the Marpi landfill. The opening of both facilities is a culmination of years of planning and design, and the closure of the Puerto Rico dump. The Puerto Rico dump was a major eyesore located next to the island's only shipping port and close to major hotels.



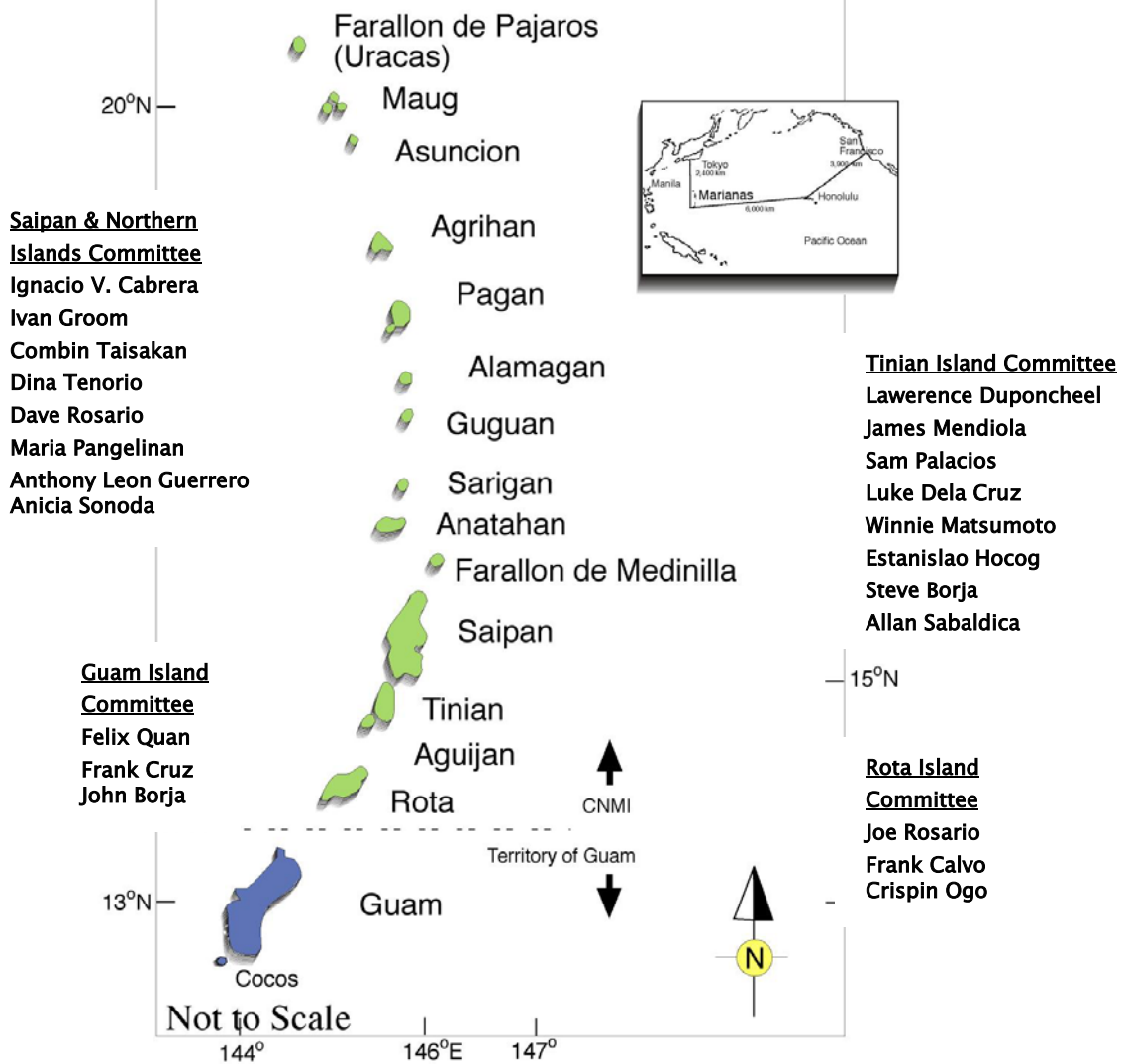
While at the Marpi landfill, Blas Mafnas (DPW) and David Bush (Saipan Waste Management) conducted a tour of the constructed wetland built to receive and treat wastewater pumped from the landfill. The wetland receives wastewater, which is then filtered through the reed planted wetland. Preliminary results indicate that the wetland is indeed functioning as planned. If managed properly, the landfill has an expected life span of 15 to 20 years. The key to extending the life of the landfill is preventing recyclable and hazardous material such as cooking oil, paper and plastics from entering the landfill.



Touring the Marpi Landfill, a constructed wetland which is used to receive and treat wastewater pumped from the landfill, which is located in Saipan's northern district of Marpi.



The Mariana Islands






2003 Marianas RC&D Council Executive Board

Joe Rosario, President	Frank Cruz, Vice President
Felix P. Quan, Treasurer	Crispin Ogo, Secretary
Ignacio V. Cabrera, Member at Large	
Lawrence Duponcheel, Member at Large	

General Membership

John Borja	Frank Calvo
Ivan Groom	Anthony Leon Guerrero
James Mendiola	Sam Palacios

*Get involved with the RC&D
Council or an Island Committee...*

-  **Come to a Council or an Island
Committee Meeting.**
-  **Talk to a Council or an Island
Committee Member.**
-  **Let Council or Island Committee
Members know about problems
and opportunities.**

**Are You
Interested?
Volunteer Your
Time!**

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